AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an electrolyte, said electrolyte containing sulfuric acid, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant,

said electrolyte contains a volatile organic acid, and

~~a~~ the content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 250 mg or lower per liter of said electrolyte.

2. (original) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1, wherein the content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 12 mg or higher per liter of said electrolyte.

3. (previously presented) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said volatile organic acid is selected from a group consisting of HCOOH, CH_3COOH, C_2H_5COOH, n-C_3H_7COOH, iso-C_3H_7COOH, and mixtures thereof.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.

6. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an electrolyte, the electrolyte containing sulfuric acid, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant; ~~and~~

said electrolyte contains a volatile organic acid; and

the content of the volatile organic acid is equal to 250 mg or lower per liter of said electrolyte; and

wherein said method comprises a first step in which said lead-acid battery is container-formed; a second step in which said lead-acid battery is left at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer; and a third step in which said lead-acid battery is charge so as to make a charged electrical quantity equal to a rated capacity or larger.

7. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an electrolyte, the electrolyte containing sulfuric acid, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant; ~~, and~~

said electrolyte contains a volatile organic acid; and

the content of the volatile organic acid is equal to 250 mg or lower per liter of said electrolyte; and

wherein said method comprises a step of leaving said lead-acid battery at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer, followed by charging said lead-acid battery with 30% or higher of a theoretical capacity of a positive active material provided in said positive electrode.

8. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of manufacturing the lead-acid battery according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.

9. (withdrawn - new) The method of manufacturing the lead-acid battery according to claim 7, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.